

Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. No. 184 & H.B. No. 5262

Hearing: FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022 – 10:00 AM

I believe voters should be able to vote this year by absentee ballot as COVID19 persists.

I am writing in support of [S.B. No. 184](#) (Raised) An Act Extending Through November 8, 2022, Several Changes Regarding Election Administration as a Result of Covid-19 and Concerning Eligibility to Vote by Absentee Ballot. And [H.B. No. 5262](#) (Raised) An Act Revising Certain Absentee Voting Eligibility Statutes.

I support [S.B. No. 184](#) because it would extend the right to vote by absentee ballot using Covid as a valid excuse. Many voters do not feel safe going to the polls for a variety of reasons. Some voters have underlying medical conditions that makes Covid-19 especially frightening. Others care for elderly family members or infants. Without this extension these voters would be disenfranchised.

I support [H.B. No. 5262](#) as it would amend our state statutes regarding the “illness” provision for absentee ballot voting so that it is in line with our CT State Constitution. This would help eliminate any ambiguities that might arise and also in the event of future pandemics or medical emergencies it would enable all registered voters to vote by absentee ballot in case of illness without our state government having to rush to pass last minute legislation.

Covid is not over: by the fall we may have another dangerous Covid variant exploding as fast as Omicron did, or a serious uptick in cases that will make it frightening or impossible for some to come to a polling place on November 8. We must extend the exception passed for 2020 and 2021 into the fall of 2022.

Thank you for supporting voter access to the ballot.

Jenny Hille, Riverside CT